

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SINGAP 01856 300235Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01

COME-00 /072 W

-----300308Z 072931 /14

R 290920Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7656

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 1856

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, SN, ID

SUBJECT: HON SUI SEN ON TRADE WITH INDONESIA

1. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 28 HELD FOR VISITING GERMAN INDUSTRIALISTS, FINANCE MINISTER HON SUI SEN DENIED THAT SINGAPORE IS IN ANY WAY INVOLVED IN SMUGGLING GOODS INTO INDONESIA. ANY SMUGGLING THAT OCCURS, HON SAID, TAKES PLACE IN INDONESIA; ANYONE IS FREE TO TRANSHIP GOODS THROUGH SINGAPORE.

2. HON ALSO SAID DIFFERENCES IN PREPARATION OF TRADE STATISTICS GIVE THE APPEARANCE THAT ILLEGITIMATE TRADE IS BEING CONDUCTED. INDONESIAN STATISTICS, FOR EXAMPLE, CREDIT GOODS AGAINST THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, WHILE SINGAPORE INCLUDES IN ITS EXPORT FIGURES GOODS THAT ARE TRANSSHIPPED. THUS, INDONESIAN STATISTICS ON TRADE WITH SINGAPORE ARE UNDERSTATED.

3. HON SAID THAT TRADE STATISTICS ARE PROVIDED TO THE INDONESIANS, "BUT WE WOULD RATHER NOT HAVE THIS PUBLISHED UNTIL WE REALIZE THAT THIS IS NOT GOING TO BE A SENSITIVE OR POLITICAL ISSUE WHICH MAY SOUR RELATIONS."

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SINGAP 01856 300235Z

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: HON'S REMARKS APPEAR TO BE THE FIRST PUBLIC MENTION OF THE GOS PROBLEMS VIS-A-VIS INDONESIAN TRADE. SINGAPORE DISAVOWS ANY VESTED INTEREST IN SMUGGLING, OF COURSE, BUT IN TYPICAL PRAGMATIC FASHION IS PLAYING BY WHAT IT SEES AS THE RULES OF THE GAME IN INDONESIA. HON'S RATHER DEFENSIVE COMMENTS SHOW

THAT THE SUBJECT IS SENSITIVE AND THAT SINGAPORE WOULD LIKE  
TO RID ITSELF OF THE EMBARRASSINGLY LARGE "ERRORS AND  
OMISSIONS" FIGURE IN ITS NATIONAL ACCOUNTS, UNDER WHICH  
INDONESIAN TRADE IS CURRENTLY CATEGORIZED.  
GRANT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SMUGGLING, TRADE, PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 29-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977SINGAP01856  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770151-0352  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** SINGAPORE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t1977044/aaaaacrl.tel  
**Line Count:** 67  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 8d9a2aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2753884  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HON SUI SEN ON TRADE WITH INDONESIA  
**TAGS:** ETRD, SN, ID, (HON SUI SEN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/8d9a2aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009